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26 October, 2017

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FCC Mail Room

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW

Washington, D.C. 20554

Regarding: The possible Sinclair Broadcasting Group-Tribune Media Merger

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very much against this proposed merger. At this writing, Sinclair owns 173 local television stations, more than any other company in the US. If Sinclair is allowed to buy Tribune Media, Sinclair will have access to 72%---almost 3/4---of the American local TV news market.

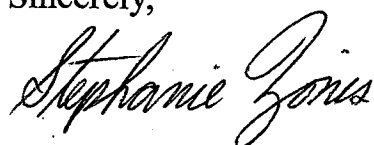
In the past, Sinclair has used their ownership of local media markets to display a strong political agenda. In 2004, Sinclair forbid its ABC affiliates from airing a particular *Nightline* broadcast. That broadcast would have contained someone reading aloud the name of every service member killed in Iraq, but Sinclair forbid the affiliates to air it, claiming that the sole purpose of the broadcast was to harm the reputation and name of George Bush, who was President at the time.

During the 2010 midterm campaign, Sinclair distributed an infomercial paid for by a Republican PAC that claimed President Obama raised money from the terrorist group Hamas. In 2012, in four crucial battleground states, Sinclair aired a carefully-timed special, on the eve of the election, attacking President Obama and his Affordable Care Act.

Sinclair has required local news anchors to read prepared statements in support of Trump's policies and aired fake news infomercials attacking President Obama. In short, Sinclair has a lengthy history of pushing a very far right, pro-Trump political agenda.

Giving Sinclair Broadcasting Group a near-monopoly in so great a share of local news markets is not my idea of freedom of the press. I urge you to vote NO on this merger.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Zonis